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April 17, 1962 - Tuesday

I left this morning by train for Birmingham, arriving there at noon. I was met by Mr. Gracie, President of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, and Mr. Atkinson, the American Consul. We went immediately to call on the Lord Mayor, Alderman E. E. Mole, J.P. Both he and the President of the Chamber of Commerce hold office for only a year. The Lord Mayor is a delightful man. He has an attractive bar in his office. After being photographed, we all went on to the Grand Hotel, for the Chamber of Commerce lunch. It was preceded by a reception, in the course of which I met some of the leading citizens, particularly those active in Chamber affairs.

There were about 400 people at the lunch. Welcomed by the Lord Mayor, introduced by Mr. Gracie, I spoke at considerable length. I had notes with me, as follows, for about one-third of the speech, but finally decided to discard them and to make it an extemporaneous effort. This proved later to have been confusing to the journalists there. It was a genial and seemingly enthusiastic audience.

Afterwards, I inspected the Consulate, and met the members of the staff. Our quarters are in the new Chamber of Commerce building, a superb structure, befitting the second largest city in the U.K. We had tea in the Chamber offices, after which I returned on a smooth-riding train to London.

I have again had my attention called to the ~~deplorable state of teeth in England.~~ The latest Ministry of Health figures show that 40,000 school children a year have to be fitted with false teeth, and one in five is toothless by the age of 21.

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April 18, 1962 - Wednesday

Henry Hyde lunched with me at the office. He has just returned here, overflowing with happiness about his new married life, but concerned over a legal problem involving the French Government. It seems that many years ago his father established

Birmingham, England, April 17 (AP) . . . U. S. Ambassador David K. E. Bruce said today America wants Britain to join the European Common Market even though this might put the United States at a commercial disadvantage.

Bruce, addressing a Birmingham Chamber of Commerce luncheon, said the United States would welcome Britain's entry into the trading bloc because it would increase the cohesion of Western Europe.

The Ambassador denied the Kennedy Administration is pushing Britain into the Common Market.

"It will be disadvantageous to the United States commercially if the United Kingdom joins the Common Market," he said. "It will enlarge the area of discrimination against exports from the United States."

But, from a political standpoint, Bruce said "We need allies who are more cohesive. Maybe the third force (meaning the European Common Market nations plus Britain) would be more powerful than either the United States or the Soviet Union.

"We should like it because the present situation is undesirable and the alternative cannot be worse."

THE BIRMINGHAM POST...April 18, 1962
(Michael Chester, Midland Industrial Correspondent)

Mr. David K. E. Bruce, the American Ambassador, told Midland business leaders in Birmingham yesterday that the United States favoured Britain going into the Common Market, despite adverse effects on America in trade, because it would improve the cohesion of the Western world.

The United States welcomed the creation of the third force which the Common Market could mould and there was no reason why British entry should affect the Anglo-American relationship that had been the greatest single source of stability in modern history.

Addressing members of Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, at a special luncheon, Mr. Bruce stressed that the United States was not trying to "push" Britain into the Common Market. British entry would be disadvantageous to the United States, in trade and commerce, since it would enlarge the area of discrimination against American exports.

Yet, the United States still favoured Britain going in, and for very good reasons. He said: "We need allies, but we need allies who are cohesive. Because of your political skill, your integrity as a nation, your ability to manage people, you would be the best ace alongside us to bring the Western world into cohesion."

On nuclear tests and disarmament, Mr. Bruce said: "I am opposed to any measure of disarmament or cessation of nuclear tests until such time as there is an international system of inspection and control, because of the danger that anyone acting in bad faith, or inspired by maniacal ambition, could let loose forces which in 15 minutes could pass beyond any future control.

"Between the United States and the United Kingdom there is no difference whatsoever about this."

Talking on the Berlin situation, Mr. Bruce said that the war-time Berlin settlement, creating an enclave surrounded by a ring allocated to the Soviets, had been "the most stupid settlement ever made in the aftermath of a war."